AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

ISSN 0712-7774

A Note from the Publisher

The adventure ends and another begins.

This issue is the final chapter in Dave's 500 page graphic novel, "High Society". Together, we have watched an insignificant barbarian become a powerful political figure. I know, from the mail, that many of you were wondering how this story would resolve itself. If you had asked me, I couldn't have hazarded a guess. However, if you want to get the full impact of the story, I would suggest you take out some back issues (at least back to issue 45) and read your way up to this issue. I found the flow from issue-to-issue to be a big plus in appreciating the story in general and the ending in particular.

When the story was ended Dave discussed with me the possibility of dedicating this issue. In his own words to "Lech Walesa because of his political integrity against overwhelming odds", "the memory of John F. Kennedy and the words of his speechwriters for the idealism they invoke" "to Wendy Pini for her steadfast view that real heroes should cry real tears" and to "the memory of Gene Day for always pushing back the boundaries of graphic art".

Given enough thought, the list becomes endless. Some may call these people heroes, some may not, but choosing one person became a hopeless task.

There is one "personal hero", however that we both agree on, John Lennon, a man of peace, shot down in violence.

This month's Unique story said so completely my feelings on the subject of the man, I knew immediately when I first read it in Clay Geerdes Comix Wave that I had to see it published for a wider audience. Valentino's tribute to him says more than I could possibly say about the loss we all felt that day. We hope you will agree that it is a postscript that suits issue fifty.

Deni

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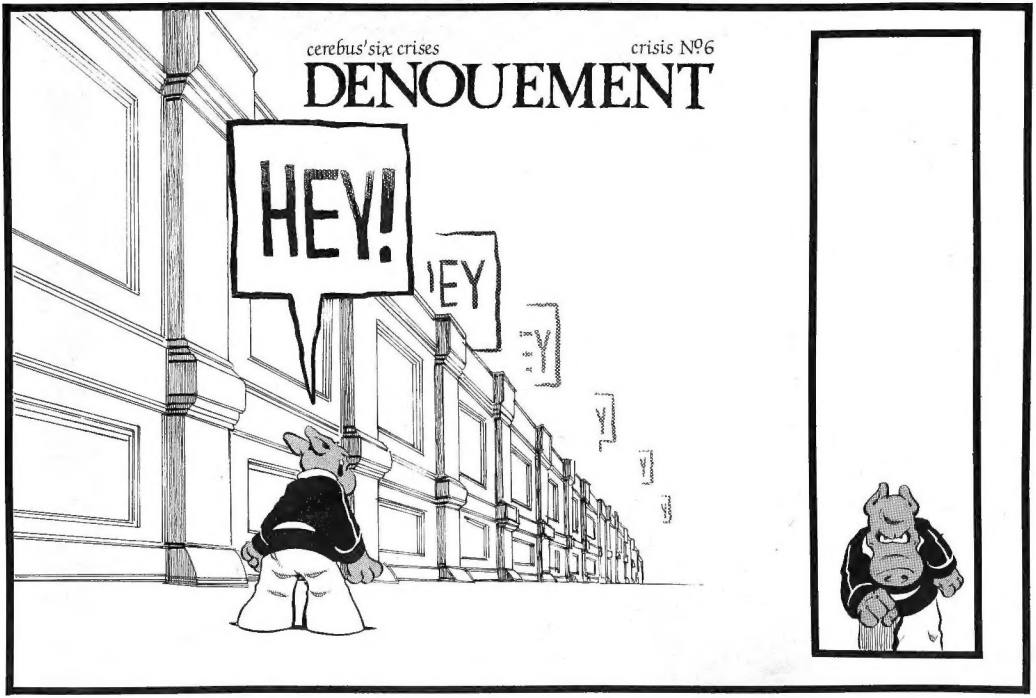
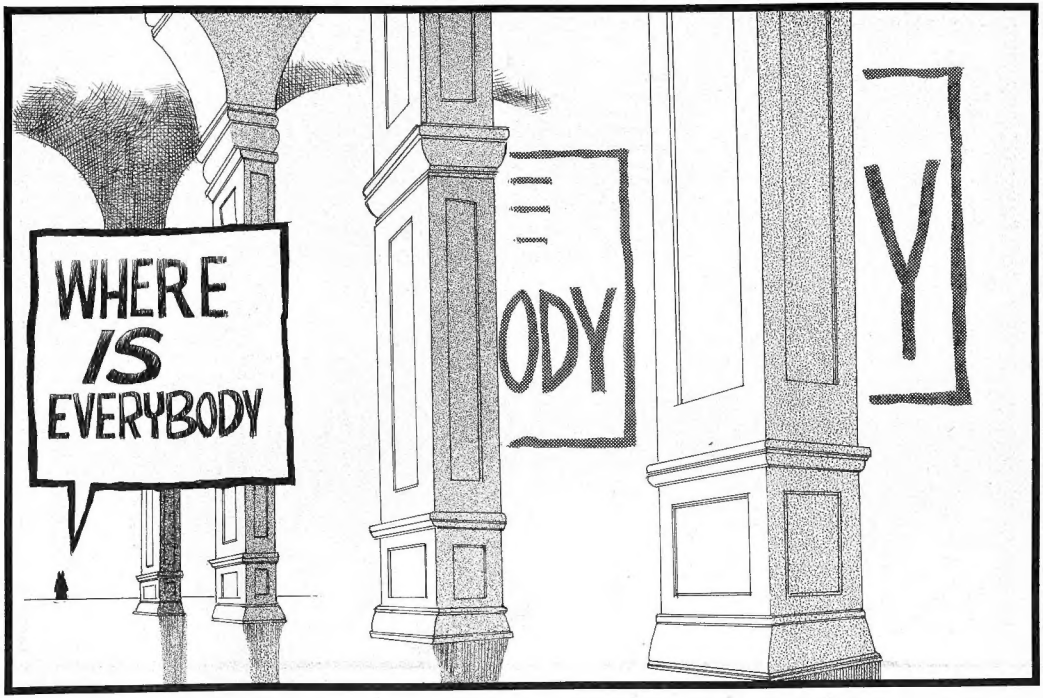
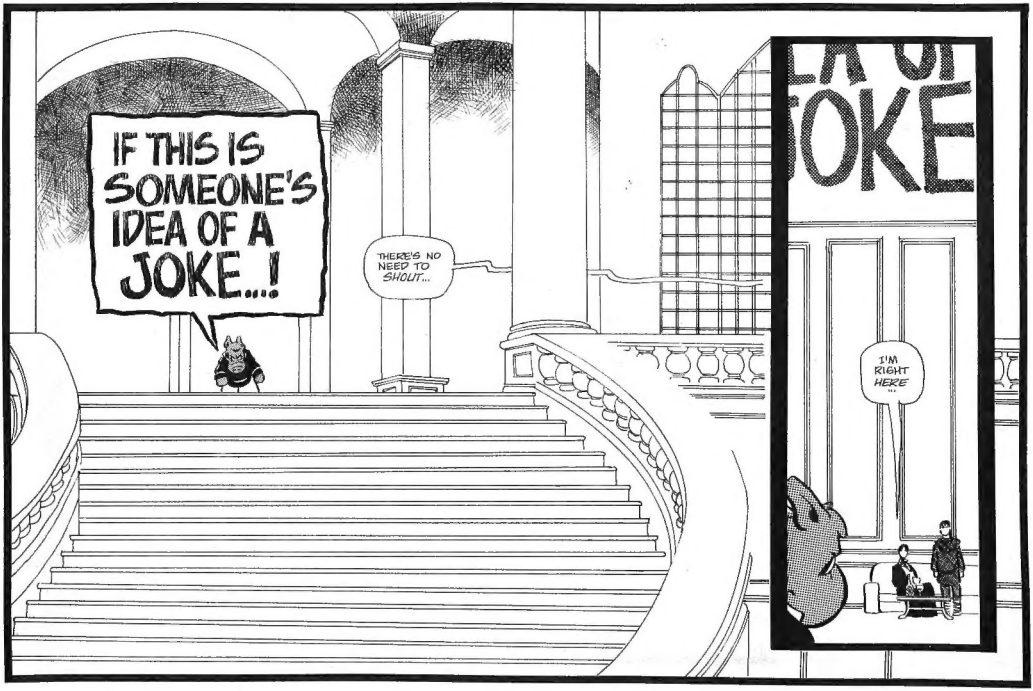
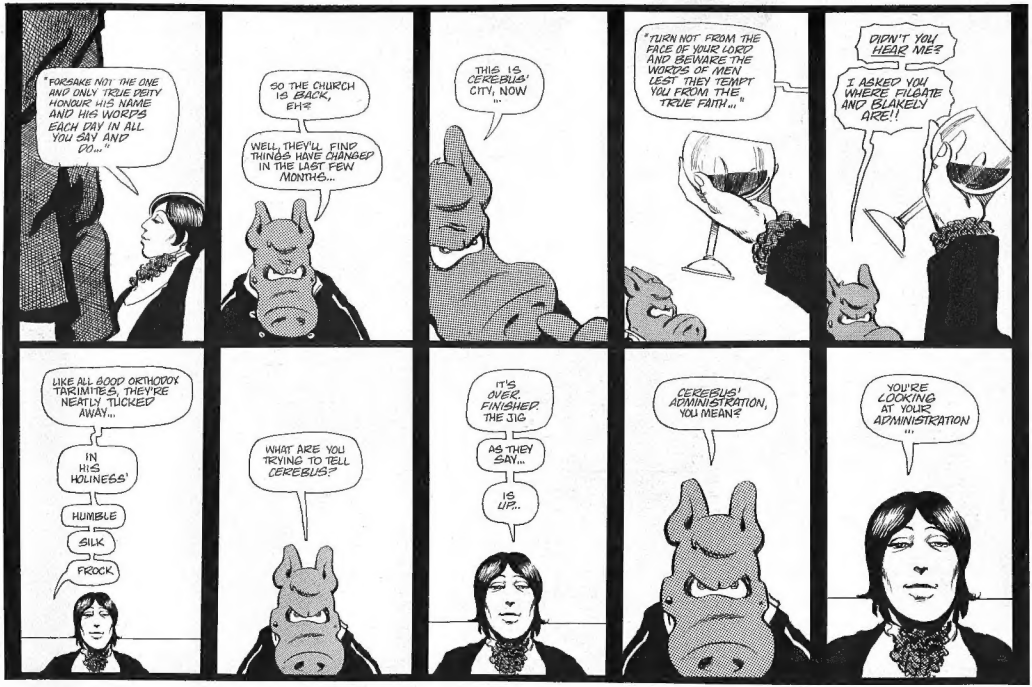


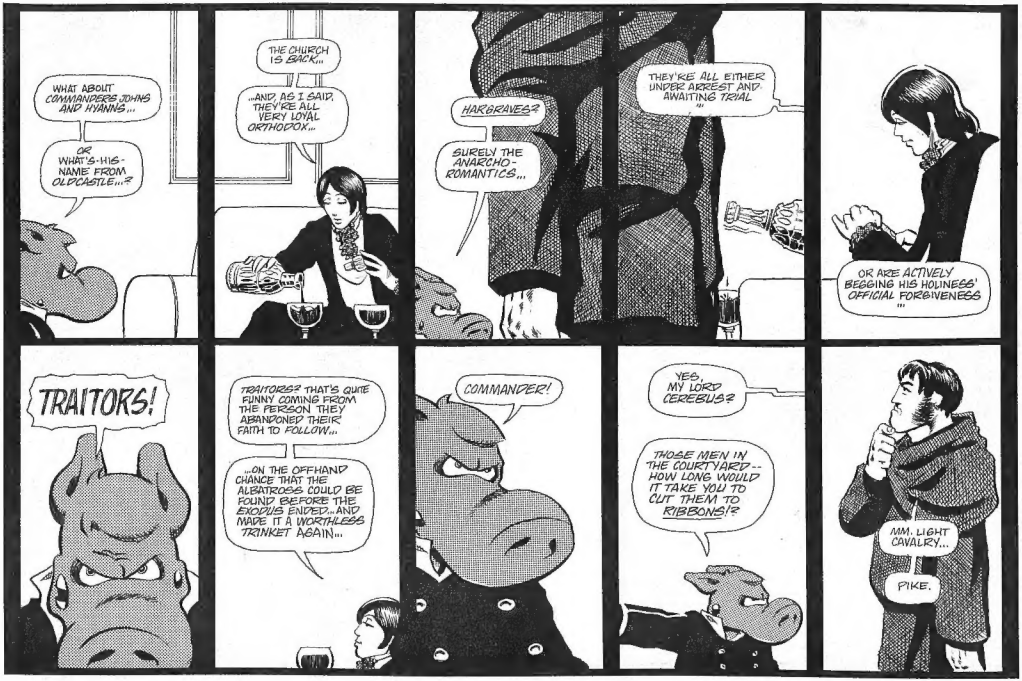

WHERE
IS
EVERYBODY
ODY
Y


IF THIS IS SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE...!
THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT...
I'M RIGHT HERE...

SOMETHING'S WRONG.
TO BE SURE... THE WIDEST IMAGINABLE SHIFTING OF POLITICAL FORCES IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME WITH THE MAXIMUM DEGREE OF IMPACT ON THE GREATEST NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COULD, WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION, BE SUMMED UP AS "SOMETHING'S WRONG"
MIGHT ONE ENQUIRE AS TO HOW YOU ARRIVED AT SO STRIKINGLY INSIGHTFUL AN OBSERVATION?
NO ONE BROUGHT CEREBUS HIS BREAKFAST
INDEED?
IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE INFLUENCE OF "BREAKFASTLESSNESS" ON THE WORKINGS OF A GREAT POLITICAL MIND...

AS I WAS TELLING YOUR CONNIPTON FRIEND HERE, THOUGH I DOUBT HE UNDERSTOOD A WORD OF IT...
THE EXODUS INWARD HAS ENDED...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE PONTIFF IS DEAD...
... LONG LIVE THE NEW PONTIFF.
HAVE YOU LOOKED OUTSIDE?
IT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE, REALLY.
THE PERSONAL GUARD OF HIS HOLINESS, THE EASTERN PONTIFF -- ASSIGNED TO SECURE THE EXECUTIVE MANSION...
WHERE ARE BLAKELY AND FILGATE?
WE NEED TO PLAN SOME STRATEGY...
"AND HE SAID TO THE PEOPLE, KEEP YOUR DISCIPLINES AND YOUR LESSONS ALL YOUR DAYS."
NOW THAT THE CONNIPTINS ARE HERE, WE HAVE THE MILITARY STRENGTH WE NEEDED ALL ALONG...


"FORSAKE NOT THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE DEITY HONOUR HIS NAME AND HIS WORDS EACH DAY IN ALL YOU SAY AND DO..."
SO THE CHURCH IS BACK, EH?
WELL, THEY'LL FIND THINGS HAVE CHANGED IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS...
THIS IS CEREBUS' CITY, NOW ...
"TURN NOT FROM THE FACE OF YOUR LORD AND BEWARE THE WORDS OF MEN LEST THEY TEMPT YOU FROM THE TRUE FAITH..."
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I ASKED YOU WHERE FILGATE AND BLAKELY ARE!
LIKE ALL GOOD ORTHODOX TARIMITES, THEY'RE NEATLY TUCKED AWAY...
IN HIS HOLINESS'
HUMBLE
SILK
FROCK
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL CEREBUS?
IT'S OVER. FINISHED THE JIG
AS THEY SAY...
IS UP...
CEREBUS' ADMINISTRATION, YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE LOOKING AT YOUR ADMINISTRATION ...


WHAT ABOUT COMMANDERS JOHNS AND HYANNS...
OR WHAT'S-HIS-NAME FROM OLDCASTLE...?
THE CHURCH IS BACK...
...AND, AS I SAID, THEY'RE ALL VERY LOYAL ORTHODOX...
HARGRAVES?
SURELY THE ANARCHO-ROMANTICS...
THEY'RE ALL EITHER UNDER ARREST AND AWAITING TRIAL
OR ARE ACTIVELY BEGGING HIS HOLINESS' OFFICIAL FORGIVENESS
TRAITORS!
TRAITORS? THAT'S QUITE FUNNY COMING FROM THE PERSON THEY ABANDONED THEIR FAITH TO FOLLOW...
...ON THE OFFHAND CHANCE THAT THE ALBATROSS COULD BE FOUND BEFORE THE EXODUS ENDED... AND MADE IT A WORTHLESS TRINKET AGAIN...
COMMANDER!
YES, MY LORD CEREBUS?
THOSE MEN IN THE COURTYARD -- HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO CUT THEM TO RIBBONS!?
MM. LIGHT CAVALRY...
PIKE.

A FEW HOURS AT THE MOST ...
DARE I ASK WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND?
THEY WANT A FIGHT?
THEY'LL GET ONE...
AND HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO DEFEAT FOUR OF THE WESTERN PONTIFF'S ELITE LEGIONS COMMANDERS?
THE WESTERN PONTIFF?
..."HIS HOLINESS, THE NEW IESTÂN PONTIFF WISHES TO ANNOUNCE THE REUNITING OF THE EASTERN AND WESTERN CHURCHES UNDER ONE FLAG -- THE GLORIOUS BANNER OF THE LION OF TARIM -- THE MOST PIOUS AEPRAN EMPIRE"
THE LEGIONS ARRIVE AT DAWN.
AEPRA
AN ALLIANCE?
IT WILL NEVER LAST...
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. BUT IT WILL LAST LONG ENOUGH TO SEE EVERY OMNIPTIN IN THE UPPER CITY REDUCED TO A FEW POUNDS OF GROUND MEAT...
WHICH IS ALL HIS HOLINESS IS COUNTING ON...
YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ THE FORMAL AGREEMENT...
THE NEW PONTIFF IS SO EAGER TO HAVE YOU EJECTED FROM THE CITY, HE HAS VIRTUALLY HANDED IEST TO THE EMPIRE ON A SILVER PLATTER ...
AEPRA
WE'LL SMASH HIS PERSONAL GUARD!
THE PEOPLE WILL SEE THAT CERBERUS IS STRONGER AND FLOCK TO HIS SIDE!

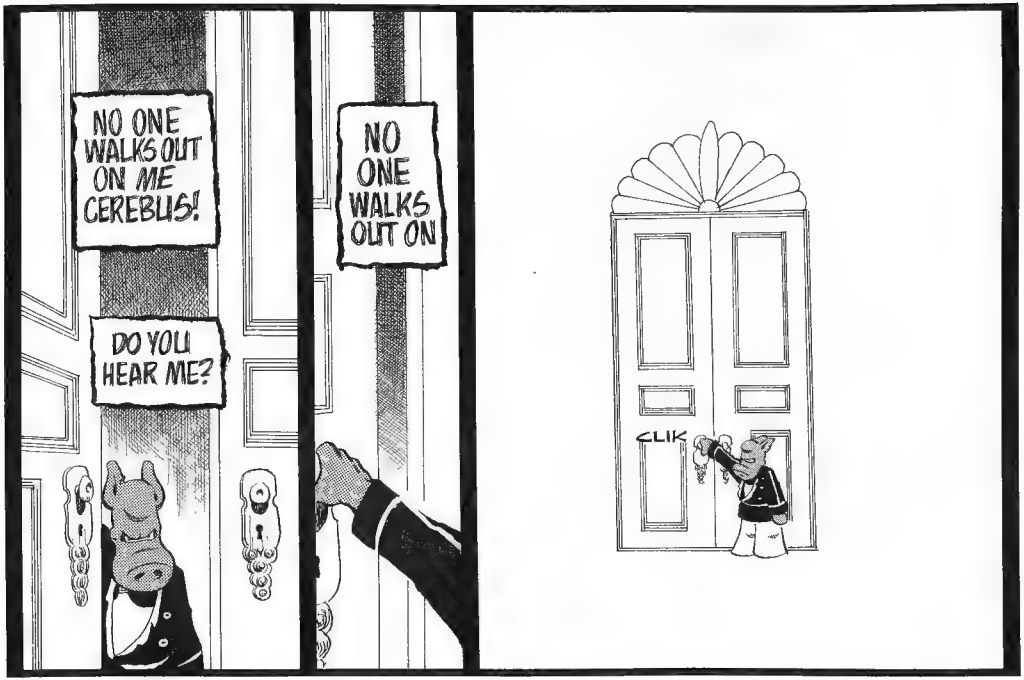
MY LORD CEREBUS-- MY MEN ARE READY...
DO YOU WISH THEM TO ATTACK?
DO YOU, "MY LORD CEREBUS", I SUPPOSE YOU DO RECAPTURE THE CITY...
I SUPPOSE YOU EVEN MANAGE TO REPEL THE WESTERN LEGIONS WHEN THEY ARRIVE...
HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO REPAY THE CITY'S DEBTS?
...
NEW SEPTRA...
THE EMPIRE...
LOWER FELDA. LORD JULIUS.
THEY'LL ALL BE UNITED AGAINST YOU...
OR DO YOU PLAN TO DEFEAT ALL OF ESTARCION WITH YOUR RAGGED LITTLE BAND OF NORTHLANDERS?
MY LORD CEREBUS...
SHUT UP!
I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?
WE CAN GO TO LOWER FELDA...THEY'RE WILLING TO SUPPORT YOU AS ESTAN PRIME MINISTER-IN-EXILE...
TO EMBARRASS THE CHURCH...

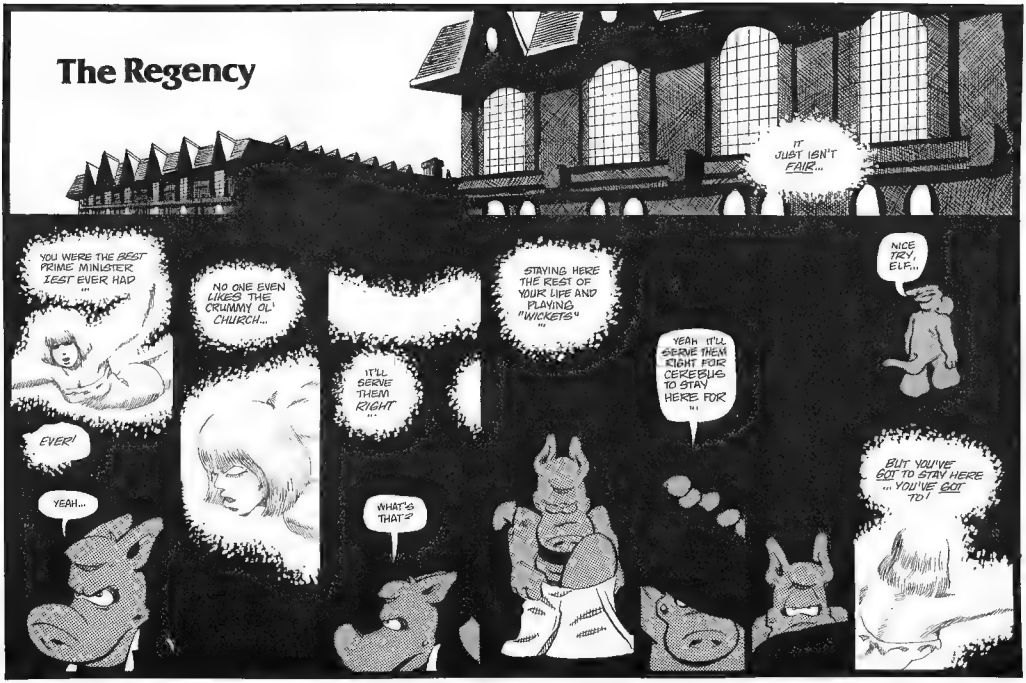
WHAT THEN?
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH OF A PLAN!
WE START CONVERTING PEOPLE...
...MAKING INROADS FOR REPUBLICANISM...
REPUBLICANISM! AND WHAT GOOD DOES THAT DO? HUH?
WHY ARE YOU SO BLOODY INTERESTED IN IT?
YES!
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?
I BELIEVE, IN TIME, THAT IT CAN LEAD TO WOMEN GETTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE...
WOMEN?
YES.
THE RIGHT TO VOTE?!
AND WHY NOT?
WOMEN COOK...
CLEAN...
HAVE BABIES.
SOME DO...

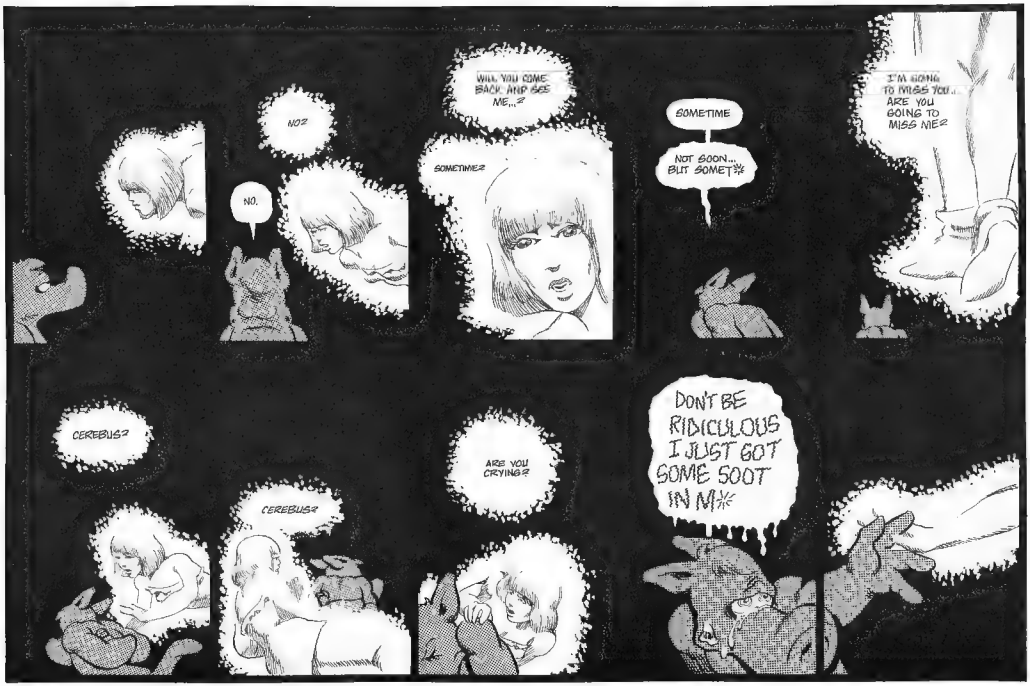
OTHERS FIND CAST-OFF KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISORS AND MAKE PRIME MINISTERS OUT OF THEM...
CEREBUS WON THE ELECTION.
OF COURSE YOU DID
IF WE LEAVE FOR LOWER FELDA TOMORROW AT DAWN...
CEREBUS MADE THE DECISIONS
YES, DEAR.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CARRY MUCH LUGGAGE...
CEREBUS WAS THE BOSS!
I'M AGREEING WITH YOU...
NOW...
WHEN WE GET TO LOWER FELDA...
EGHNOSOPUR.
I BEG YOUR PARDON?

CEREBUS HAS DECIDED WE'RE GOING TO ESHNOSOPLIR INSTEAD!
THEY HAVEN'T OFFERED YOU A POSITION.
IT'S WARMER THERE..
SO... WHAT.
RIPP!
CEREBUS IS LEAVING!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
CEREBUS ISN'T AN IDIOT!
CEREBUS HAS HAD ENOUGH.
WHERE WILL YOU GO?
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
CEREBUS HAS SOMEONE HE HAS TO FIND..
JAKA?
POSSIBLY.

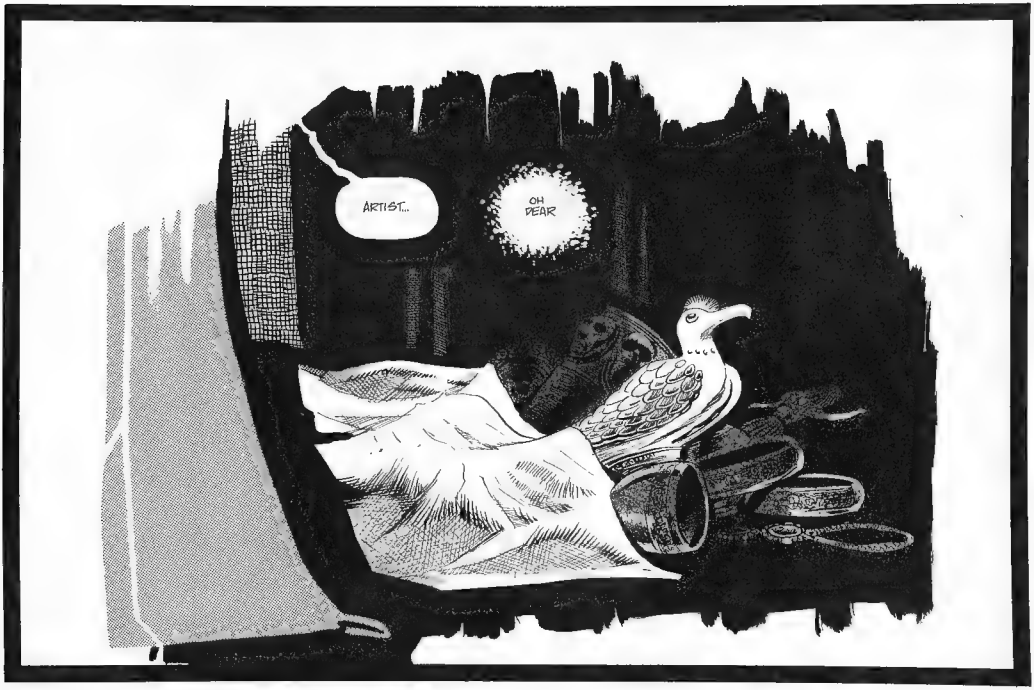
THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER...
YOU MEAN LIKE THE FACT THAT SHE'S LORD JULIUS' NIECE?
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS A FEW SECRETS AROUND HERE, AGTORIA...
I WAS LORD JULIUS' "NIECE" ONCE...
HE'S HAD QUITE A NUMBER OF "NIECES" OVER THE YEARS...
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS THAT HE MARRIED ME!
GOODBYE, AGTORIA...
I WOULDN'T LEAVE IF I WERE YOU...


NO ONE WALKS OUT ON ME CEREBUS!
DO YOU HEAR ME?
NO ONE WALKS OUT ON
CLIK


The Regency
IT JUST ISN'T FAIR...
YOU WERE THE BEST PRIME MINISTER IEST EVER HAD ...
EVER!
YEAH...
NO ONE EVEN LIKES THE CRUMMY OL' CHURCH...
IT'LL SERVE THEM RIGHT ...
WHAT'S THAT?
STAYING HERE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND PLAYING "WICKETS" ...
YEAH IT'LL SERVE THEM RIGHT FOR CEREBUS TO STAY HERE FOR ...
NICE TRY, ELF...
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO STAY HERE ... YOU'VE GOT TO!


I'M GOING TO MISS YOU... ARE YOU GOING TO MISS ME?
SOMETIME
NOT SOON... BUT SOMET%
WILL YOU COME BACK AND SEE ME...?
SOMETIME?
NO?
NO.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS I JUST GOT SOME SOOT IN M%
ARE YOU CRYING?
CEREBUS?
CEREBUS?

I DON'T KNOW. FOR A WHILE THERE CEREBUS THOUGHT HE COULD...MAKE A DIFFERENCE...
IT'S OKAY, ELF ...THE SCOT'S GONE NOW ...
AND I'VE GOT MY VEST ...
AND MY MEDALLIONS
AND THIS...
THIS SACK OF JUNK I GOT FROM THAT ...
KICK!
YOU GOT YOUR SWORD BACK...
YEAH... I GOT MY SWORD BACK...
AND HERE I AM... RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED..


ARTIST...
OH DEAR

THE SIX CRISES

INGERS

requests for aid from republican organizations in surrounding city-states

Even as we composed the letters, the door burst inward and we were surrounded by His Holiness' personal guards. We had been betrayed by members of the party in return for full amnesty from prosecution.

We were moved with great haste, under armed guard to the upper city. There we faced a Clerical Tribunal in an anteChamber of the Papal Residence. We were informed that the Prime Minister had agreed to relinquish the reigns of power and had accepted exile to an undisclosed city state without condition. I observed solemnly that one could hardly expect the Tribunal to advance any other viewpoint irrespective of whatever The Prime Minister's actual status might be. We were advised to cooperate and accept the Church's Terms of Penance (which were not Administry unduly harsh). We refused and were ad downstairs to individual cells there to await formal trial.

We had only to wait a matter of hours for the full Papal Council to convene. We were led before them one at a time and there again presented with the Terms of Penance, which we were expected to sign.

I was informed that the Prime Minister had abandoned the cause of republicanism and the

THE SIX CRISES

INGERS

anarcho-romantic movement. I was shown a document, signed ostensibly by Cerebus urging his followers to repent and return to the bosom of the Mother Church (which phrasing I found particularly uncharacteristic) and cooperate in the restoration of the city-state of Iest.

Once again, I refused to comply.

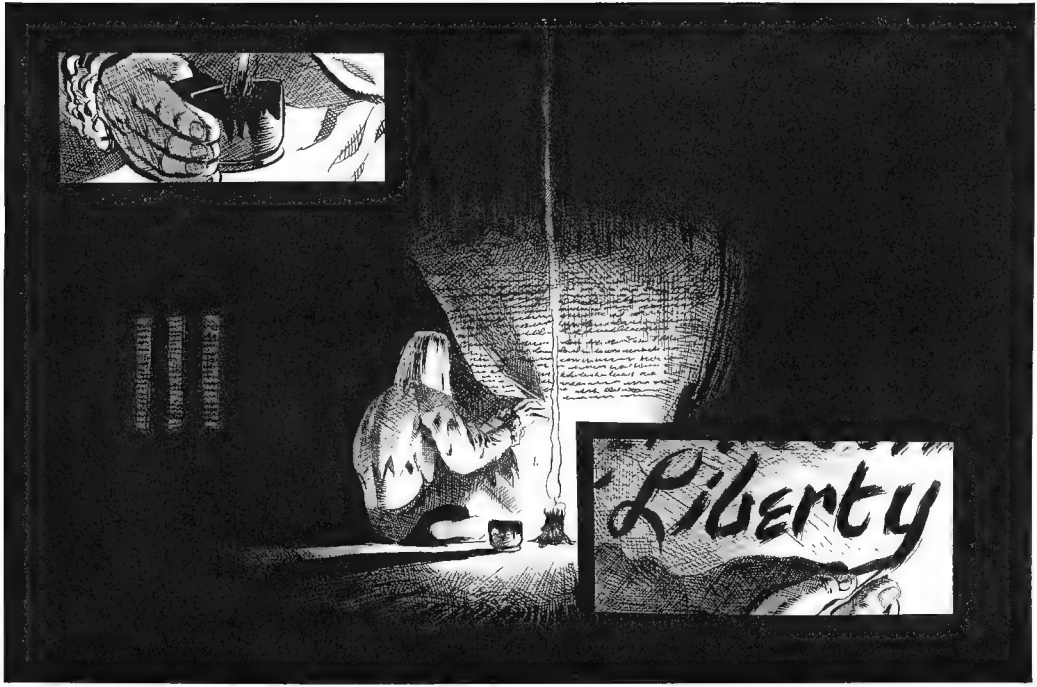
One of the bishops as it happens an old friend of my father's, asked me that without a certain affection) why I was unable, under the circumstances, to see reason.

I informed him that there was a larger issue at stake than mere acquiescing to a change in our party's status and fortune. He asked me what larger issue there could be than the saving of my immortal soul, and I made no reply.

After a brief conference I was informed that I stood convicted of blasphemy and treason. They asked me if I had anything to say before sentence was passed.

I chose to quote a speech I had written and which the Prime Minister had delivered in the first few days of his administration:

As a republican I will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of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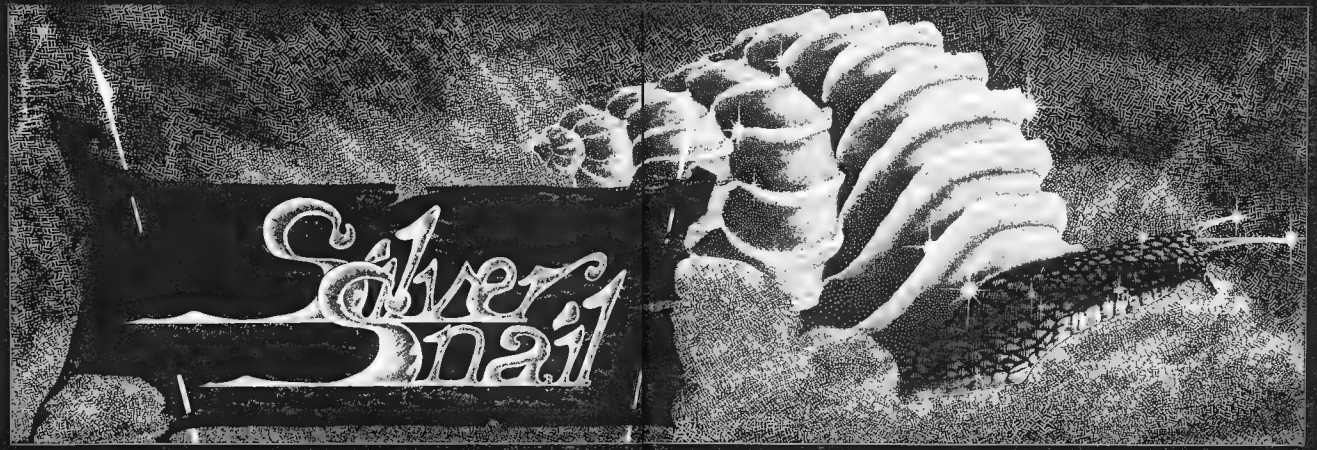

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A UNIQUE STORY

IN MY LIFE

There are places I'll remember, all my life

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW THEM, WAY BACK IN 1963...
...THE BEATLES, A LONG HAIRED ROCK 'N ROLL GROUP FROM LIVERPOOL ARE BEING TOUTED AS THE "NEXT BIG THING" IN POP MUSIC...
WOW! LOOK AT THEIR HAIR!
...SHORTLY THEREAFTER, EVERY OTHER SONG ON THE RADIO WAS A BEATLE SONG. FIVE IN THE TOP 10!
THEY AFFECTED FASHION WITH THE BEATLE BOOT.
AND "BANGS" BECAME THE HAIR STYLE...
MAYBE IF I IRONED IT...
EVERYBODY HAD BANGS, EXCEPT ME. NO MATTER WHAT I DID I COULD NOT GET MY HAIR TO LAY DOWN FLAT...
...LONG HAIR GOT AN IMMEDIATE AND PREDICTIBLE REACTION FROM OUR PARENTS.
LOOK, YOU COULD HAVE VERMEADS, AN' CALL YERSELVES THE BALDIES! START A WHOLE NEW FAD!
GIVE IT UP, DAD..
THE SEEDS OF REBELLION WERE BEING SOWN...

though some have changed

...I REMEMBER GETTING DRUNK FOR THE FIRST TIME...
AH CHRIST, I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD...
A HARD DAY'S NIGHT
...STANDING IN LINE TO SEE "A HARD DAY'S NIGHT."
...EVERYONE HAD A FAVORITE BEATLE IN THOSE DAYS. JOHN BECAME MINE WHEN I REALIZED HOW MUCH I RELATED TO HIS SONGS...
...OF COURSE!

some forever not for better

...THEY WERE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO AVOID, BUT FOR THOSE OF US WHO LISTENED TO THE QUALITY OF THEIR MUSIC, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ENOUGH...
AWRITE!!
...FROM 1965 TO 1970, THERE WAS ALWAYS A BEATLE ALBUM UNDER THE TREE...
...NEW BEATLE SONGS WERE A BIG RATINGS PLOY FOR THE LOCAL STATIONS (A.M. IN THOSE DAYS, KIDS!), SO THEY'D PLAY UP A DEBUTE FOR DAYS...
NOBODY TOUCHES THIS RADIO 'TILL I HEAR THAT NEW SONG!
I'D COMMANDEER THE RADIO, AND WAS NEVER DISAPPOINTED. THEY ALWAYS TOPPED THEMSELVES, EVERY TIME OUT!

some have gone and some remain

THE REFFECT ON WORLD FASHION WOULD CONTINUE FOR IN MOUSTACHES BECAME THE RAGE AFTER THEY GREW THEIRS.
I'D ALWAYS HATED THE GLASSES I HAD TO WEAR AS A KID, THINKING THEY WERE UGLY AND "SQUARE."
LET ME TAKE YOU DOWN 'CAUSE I'M GOING TO STRAWBERRY FIELDS
NOTHING IS REAL AND NOTHING TO GET HUNG ABOUT
FOREVER LIVING
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY!
HEY, WI RE RIMS ARE IT
AS I BEGAN MY EXPERIMENTS WITH ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS, THEY BEGAN TO EXPAND MUSICALLY, CONTINUALLY GROWING.
BUT WHEN JOHN BEGAN WEARING HIS ROUND GLASSES BECAME "COOL" OVER NIGHT!
all these places have their moments
IN THE SUMMER OF 1967 CAME ACID AND IT'S INEVITIBLE PARTNER
SGT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND
THE BEATLES HAD EVOLVED PAST THE "IDOL" STAGE THEY WERE NOW OUR GURUS...
I CAN REMEMBER WAITING AT THE RECORD STORE ON THE DAY AN ALBUM WAS TO BE RELEASED AND CALLING UP FRIENDS TO WAX ELOQUENT ON HOW INCREDIBLE IT WAS.....
I AM THE EGGMAN GOO GOO G'JOB
LISTEN TA THIS!
AS THE WORLD AROUND ME BECAME AN INCREASING REALITY THE BEATLES BECAME A MORE IMPORTANT SANCTUARY
LOVE
with lovers and friends
I still can recall
some are dead and
PLAYING THE PAUL-IS-DEAD GAME, FERRETTING OUT THE "CLUES", THINKING MORE AND MORE ABOUT VIET-NAM. THEY WERE THINKING ABOUT CHANGING THE WORLD.
some are living
...AND THEN CAME THE OFFICIAL NEWS
IT'LL NEVER BE THE SAME..
THE END
CANERA
...THE BEATLES WERE NO MORE !...

In my life—I've loved them all. But of all these friends+lovers

JOHN HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST *DEFIANT* OF ALL THE *BEATLES*. REBELLION HAD BEEN HIS FROM THE START. IT WAS NO SURPRISE THAT SHORTLY AFTER THEY BROKE UP HE WAS WRITING ANTHEMS TO MATCH THE POLITICAL CLIME...

HELL WE ARE SAYING IS GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

IMPEACH NIXON

WITH THE WAR IN VIET-NAM BECOMING AN INCREASING *PROBABILITY* IN MY LIFE, THE TIME FOR IDOLS HAD PASSED...

WELL KID, UNCLE SAM CONVINCED YOU!

YA-HOO!

...POLITICAL ACTIVISM GAVE WAY TO FINDING A WAY OUT OF THE DRAFT. "WAR IS OVER (IF YOU WANT IT)".

There is no one

compared to you

...WHETHER HE WAS STILL INFLUENCING ME, OR THE *TIMES* WERE INFLUENCING US *BOTH* IS HARD TO SAY...

HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED?

GOT SAVED FOR RAINY DAY.

MEDITATION?

GOD'S A CONCEPT?

GOD IS DEAD!

MASTURBATION

NOT MEAT

PAIN

HARRY, HARRY!

...HIS *MUSIC* CONTINUED TO *SPEAK* TO ME, LIKE SOME *KINDRED* SOUL...

...IN THE SONGS ABOUT HIS PERSONAL LIFE, HE CAME THROUGH WITH A *DEVASTATING* HONESTY. AN HONESTY MOST PEOPLE JUST COULDN'T TAKE...

SGT PEPPERS TOOK YOU BY SURPRISE

THIS TOO, AFFECTED ME, AS IT WAS AROUND THIS PERIOD THAT I BEGAN TO WRITE AUTO-BIOGRAPHICAL PIECES.

and these memories

lose their meaning

..AS TIME PASSED I GOT MORE ENTRENCHED IN PURSUING MY OWN PERSONAL GOALS...

THINK CLEVER THOUGHTS. THINK CLEVER.

I SPENT MONTHS ON END, AT HOME, ALONE, WORKING ON MY "CAREER".

...I STRIVED FOR THAT SAME *HUMOR*, *IRREVERENCE* AND *HONESTY* THAT JOHN HAD SO RICHLY DISPLAYED IN *HIS* WORK. IN MY OWN STYLE.

JOHN SECURED HIMSELF AWAY IN *HIS* HOME, AS WILL FEE FERRING TO SPEND TIME WITH HIS SON OVER *HIS* CAREER

and I think of love

as something new

Though I know I'll never lose affection
..ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1980, I HAD GONE TO BED EARLY TO DO SOME READING. DIANE WAS WORKING ON A POSTER. I GOT A CALL AROUND 8:30 FROM A CLOSE FRIEND..
BRACE YERSELF, KID. THEY JUST SHOT JOHN LENNON.
WHAT?
NO, IT...IT CAN'T BE
IT IS, MAN, I JUST HEARD IT ON T.V.
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S JOEL. HE SAYS THAT SOMEONE JUST SHOT LENNON.
WHAT?
for people + things
that went before
I WAS IN A DAZE GOING DOWN THE STAIRS, NOT KNOWING WHAT TO BELIEVE.
DIANE BEAT ME TO THE RADIO
THEY WERE PLAYING A DAY IN THE LIFE..
OH GOD.
AND I KNEW IT WAS TRUE...
THE TEARS FLOWED THAT NIGHT. I HAD LOST A PART OF ME. A PART OF MY LIFE.
I MOURNED THEN AND STILL DO, FOR SOMEONE I HAD NEVER MET. FOR SOMEONE I LOVED.
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life
VALENTINO ©1982
I loved you more
in my life #1 965- john lennon- paul mccartney
for lokosean and my own diane w/ love- rip

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C'
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
N2G 4R2

I received the first two issues of "SPACED" from Tom Stazer, artist and co-writer. It's a mighty interesting sf parody with a good cast of characters. You can make his publishers (Anthony Smith and Ken Donnell) very happy by sending along $1.25 (plus postage - let's say 50 cents, shall we?) for each issue. The character below, about to have one of his bodily orifices stuffed full of pizza is LIP..... published quarterly by Anthony Smith, 1414 Lynnview Drive, Houston, Texas 77005. Thanks for the drawing, Tom!

Photo by Jean Messer

This month I attended Minicon in Minneapolis (or was that Minnecon in Miniapolis?) where I had a front row seat to watch Kara Dalkey and the "Shockwave" radio show folk perform her adaptation of Cerebus No. 6. Kara was a great Jaka and Curtis Hoffman is taking grumpy lessons which is improving his Cerebus voice immeasureably. Watch for the first four episodes on a picture disc, coming this fall from Aardvark-Vanaheim. The picture above is a Cerebus costume Jean Messer made for her brother David to wear.... David was exactly Cerebus' proportions, only six feet tall instead of three feet tall,"really, eh?". Watch this space for photos of the Moon Roach at the same con. Hsss!

Before we leave Minneapolis (so to speak), I would like to express my thanks to Kevin Lenagh (artist-writer) and Sandi Phelps (publisher) for the complete set of "Domino Chance" which is now perched next to my complete set of Spaced, which is, in turn perched next to my complete set of Ismet on the windowsill of my studio. I was sorry I didn't get a chance to "chew the fat" a while longer, but Kevin did me the great drawing of Domino and Cerebus reproduced below. Oh yeah - you can send them some money, too, $1.50 per issue plus 50 cents postage (# 1 is sold out. Nyah, nyah, I got one) Chance Enterprises, 2815 Hennepin Avenue South, Mpls. MN. 55408

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C'
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
N2G 4R2

Dear Dave,

Before I get to the main part of my letter, let me tell you why I first started reading and collecting CEREBUS The reason may be supplied by two names: Lord and Julius For the past twenty years or so (no easy feat, when you realize that, by the time this sees print, if it does, I will very recently have become 22 years old) I have been, among other things, a Marxist of the Groucho sort. I was doing good Groucho imitations before I had ever even seen any Marx Brothers films

Now, to the present For the past year or so, I have worked in a comic specialty/used book shop in Wheaton, Md Because of this job, I wind up looking at alot of comics, one would think that a person who works where I do would become sick of comics, but I find that the reverse is true, in fact, I am now collecting almost every Marvel, DC, and Alternate Company comic I can find. My first experience with CEREBUS, as an actual reader and collector, came with issue 32 I was unpacking a new shipment of comics and putting them out on the new comics rack when I came upon the issue in question Although I had heard of this character, I had never seen a copy Curious, I decided to leaf through it when I got off, to see if it was worth buying. I bought it, even though the artwork did not appeal to me, because of the character of Lord Julius. If not for my spying that one character, I would never have bought that issue, however, it is the writing and the artwork, which has since grown on me, which keeps me coming back

I was overjoyed with number 46, which finally brought Chico into the storyline I went into hysterics when I saw my letter(s) printed in number 45. The first time any of my letters to comics had been published

I was overjoyed many times I have seen Groucho's, Chico's and Harpo's figures in comics, but never had they been handled by someone like you, Dave, who was actually interested in the Marxes as other than usable characters. You were actually a Marx Brothers FAN!

Then I read your reply to John S Olson's letter in number 48. It became obvious that I was wrong about you, Dave You are not a Marx Brothers fan You just inserted them as a way of getting a laugh, just like all the other times the Brothers had been used in comics

To remind you, I will paraphrase John's letter He asks for an appearance by that mute sorcerer, Adolphus The Great, the one that specialized in pulling an unbelievable number of magical items, such as a candle burning at both ends, from an ordinary looking pocket in a rather trashy looking trench coat. He suggests that Adolphus is the Harpo character Your reply? I quote you: "Adolphus? Adolph was the boy's father. John Harpo's real name was Arthur." With this answer, it became painfully obvious to me that you do not care about the Marx Brothers enough to do any real research into the Brothers lives. The only real research you did, I think, was watch the old films and ask someone what their names really were

Your answer was wrong in two places The lesser to the two mistakes was your stating Arthur as Harpo's real name. This error is forgiveable, since only a few places I know of give reference to his original first name It was, originally, Adolph He changed it to Arthur when Hitler rose to power in Germany and started the Holocaust After all, it wouldn't do for a Jew to be named Adolph, would it? The other mistake is the unforgiveable one You could have found the name of the boy's father in any book about the Marx Brothers Up til now, in fact, I thought that such material was where you got your information from. Their father's name was not Adolph It was Sam! Or "Frenchie", so called because he came from Alsace-Lorraine

Although these two glaring mistakes have shaken my confidence and faith in you, Dave, I will keep on getting Cerebus in order for you to redeem yourself The only thing is, the next time you insert a character who is a caricature of a famous person, please research all pertinent details thoroughly

Well, now that I've taken you to task and cleared up that little problem with Harpo, I have also given you two options for a Harpo caricature. As Mister Olson suggests, you can give us Adolphus The Great.... or you can give us King Arthur!!

Ray Rose
1503 Ladd Street,
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa (sorry about that). Don't worry Ray, we have received a few letters from irate "Marxists" over my mistake. I'm afraid it's been a while since I have read any of the biographical material that I have on hand, and I used "The Marx Brother's Scrapbook" for reference, the photo gallery of which lists Harpo as Arthur. You are right, though, it was extremely careless of me and I'll try to be more careful in the future (honk honk)

Dear Dave and Deni,

No no, you silly twig, Harpo's name really was Adolph. Arthur

APPEARANCES

AARDVARKS, ALBINOS AND ALIENS
May 21, 1983
Weedsport, New York

LONE STAR
May 28th (3-5 p.m.)
511 E. Abram St., Arlington, Texas

May 28th (7-9 p.m.)
Town East Mall, Mesquite, Texas

May 29th (12-6 p.m.)
7738 Forest Lane, Dallas, Texas

MILLENIUM CONVENTION
June 11-12th, 1983
Skyline Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

CARRY ON BOOKS
June 18th, 1983
32 King St. N., Waterloo, Ontario

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July 15, 16, 17, 1983
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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C'
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
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was the King in England who ate at his Round Table consequently could never precisely determine his assigned place setting. This frustration caused him to become a little warped under the helm, an illness (in honor of the king) today known as arthritis. This information can be found in GROUCHO, HARPO, CHICO AND SOMETIMES ZEPPO by Joe Adamson (page 12) and MERRY OLDE ENGLAND: A LIE by Professor Irwin Corey (pages not numbered).

May a crazed supermarket busboy double-bag your sister.

Love and quiches,

David Allen
Olney Central College
5 Douglas Drive,
Olney, IL., 62450

honk honk honk

Dear Deni, not Dave, not even a little bit:

Pardon me? You say I should be commenting on Cerebus and the content therein? What a thing to say! I'll have you know it's that type of thinking that's kept most World War I vets from finding their shoes.....

Kitchy-Kitchy Koo,

Mike Bannon
2453 Martin Drive,
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

P.S. I was thinking of forming a Deni Not Dave Even a Tiny Smidgen Fan Club, but, gee, where would we build the clubhouse? And the newsletter -- who would write it? Where would we hold our conventions and pep rallies? Not to mention the Deni merchandising. This is very confusing.....

Mike Bannon

And then Mike wrote;

Kaff, kaff:

I just want you to know that some of us have better things to do than write letters.

No, really, I'm fine.

Mike Bannon

After that Mike wrote;

Hello you sweet things:

I have a great idea -- no, a different one. Remember how DC used to set up some of their letters pages? They used to just print one or two sentence excerpts from a whole bunch of letters from a whole bunch of swell kids. If you did this, you wouldn't have to face not printing any of my letters, which must be aging you both prematurely, I'm sure.

Absolutely Sincerely,

Mike Bannon

When suddenly, out of a clear blue mailbox Mike wrote;

Dear David and Deni:

This has got to stop. I'm running out of stamps.

Highly Sincerely,

Mike Bannon

honk honk honk honk

Dear Dave,

In regards to your comments made in the interview with you and Deni published in Comics Scene # 9, where you mentioned George Tuska and Marty Pasko in the same breath and (presumably) rated their respective talents as equal.....

I would like to say, on behalf of Pasko Fans everywhere, (I am putting my thumbs in my ears and wiggling my fingers)..... PTHWWWWWWWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!

(Loud Rasberry noise) (Lips pressed against tongue. Sound continues roughly 15 seconds getting drops of saliva all over typewriter).

--------Sincerely

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, Kansas 67208

P.S. E-Man number 3 was written much better than Cerebus # 48.

I happen to think George Tuska and Marty Pasko are both very talented comics people. I thought that was what Dave McDonnell was driving at when he mentioned George as an artist to take over Cerebus. I just mentioned the first mainstream comics writer that came to mind. On the subject of E-Man # 3 being better written than Cerebus # 48, I suppose it would depend on the tastes of each individual reader.

Dear Dave:

Is it true you plan to print Cerebus sideways until John Byrne promises never to do it again?

Best,

Nick Danger
c/o First Comics
1014 Davis Street,
Evanston, IL., 60201

Sorry, Nick, I never answer questions from comic book characters (you are a comic book character aren't you?)

Aardvark-Vanaheim Photo by Karen McKiel

Marshall (I'd rather make my own mainstream) Rogers hits the last eight bars of "New York, New York" electrifying the fans at the Grand opening of Toronto's Silver Snail with his (by now) world-famous Sammy Davis, Jr. impression. Dave ("I'd rather swim in a mountain stream") Sim, pictured at left, crosses Toronto off Mr. Rogers' amazing itinerary. "That just leaves Dubuque, Columbus and Witchita" he notes.

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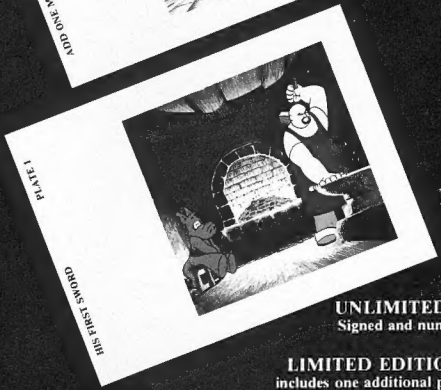

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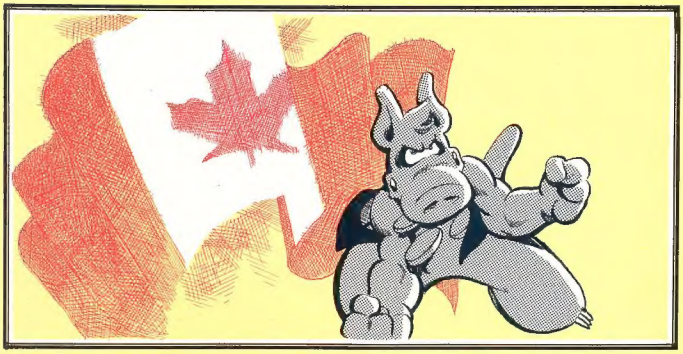

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July 4 - Edmonton, Alta.
"Dark Star"
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July 5 - Calgary, Alta.
"The Comic Centre"
111 Centre St. NW

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July 9 - Toronto, Ont.
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July 13 - Halifax, N.S.
"Odyssey 2000"
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July 14 - Montreal, P.Q.
"Captain Quebec"
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July 15 - Ottawa, Ont.
"Collectors Stop"
373 Richmond Road

July 16 & 17 - Ottawa, Ont.
"MapleCon 5"
Carleton University